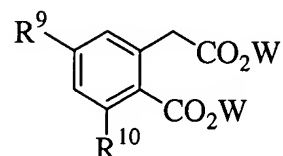
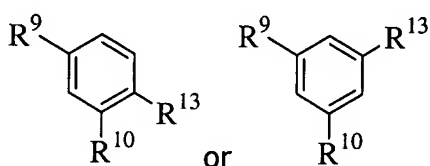


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

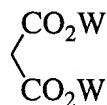
1. A process for the preparation of homophthalate derivatives of the formula:



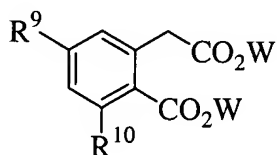
5 wherein W is a carboxy protecting group and R⁹ and R¹⁰ are independently C₁-C₆ alkyl or C₁-C₆ alkoxy; comprising reacting a halobenzene derivative of the formula:



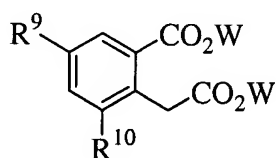
10 wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ are as defined above, and R¹³ is a halogen, sulfonate ester, tosylate or triflate, with a strong base and a malonate ester of the formula:



wherein W is as defined above, in a solvent, wherein said homophthalate derivative of the formula:

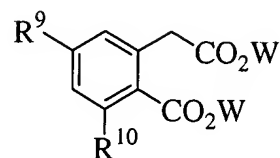


15 is produced in a molar ratio of at least about 7.0:3.0 in comparison to the homophthalate derivative of the formula:

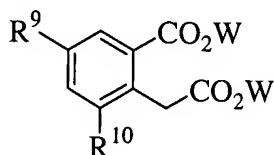


wherein W, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are as defined above.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein said homophthalate derivative of the formula:



is produced substantially free of said homophthalate derivative of the formula:



5

3. The process of claim 1, wherein said strong base is lithium diisopropylamide or lithium tetramethylpiperidide.

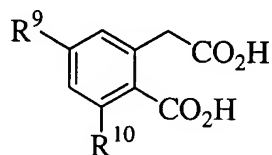
10 4. The process of claim 1, wherein said solvent is tetrahydrofuran.

5. The process of claim 1, wherein W is methyl or ethyl.

15 6. The process of claim 1, wherein R¹³ is selected from the group consisting of chloro, bromo and fluoro.

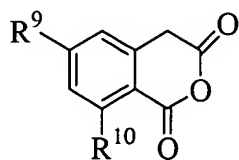
7. The process of claim 1, wherein R¹³ is bromo.

20 8. The process of claim 1, further comprising removal of the carboxy protecting groups W to form the homophthalic acid derivative of the formula:



wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ are as defined above.

9. The process of claim 8, further comprising dehydration of said homophthalic acid derivative to form the homophthalic anhydride of the formula:



5 wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ are as defined above.